

Message Text

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O R 071245Z JUN 75
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AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3532

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: IS, XF
SUBJ: GOI PREPARATION FOR FORD-RABIN MEETING

REF: TEL AVIV 3530

1. ON BASIS OF CAREFUL REVIEW OF ISRAELI JUNE 6 PRESS AND CONVERSATION WITH AMERICAN JOURNALIST WHO SPOKE WITH ALLON IN MORNING OF JUNE 5, IT APPEARS THAT DINITZ REPORT ON SECRETARY'S DEBRIEFING RE SADAT/FORD MEETING DID NOT REACH JERUSALEM AND GET FOCUSED UPON BEFORE LATE MORNING/EARLY AFTERNOON OF JUNE 5. WE ASSUME THAT JUNE 6 ISRAELI PRESS, FROM BOTH WASHINGTON AND JERUSALEM, REFLECTS TO SOME DEGREE DINITZ'S REPORT OF HIS MEETING.

2. WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED THAT AS OF PREVIOUS DAY, ISRAELI PARLIAMENTARIANS AND PRESS AGREED THAT GOI REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERIM GOE/GOI AGREEMENT WERE FOCUSED ON: A) DURATION ISSUE; B) ARRANGEMENTS ON GROUND; AND C) CERTAIN OTHER SYMBOLIC GESTURES.

3. JUNE 6 ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON, WHILE EMPHASIZING THAT SUBSTANCE OF KISSINGER/DINITZ MEETING ON SALZBURG RESULTS HAS BEEN CLOSELY HELD, HAVE AT SAME TIME CARRIED
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FOLLOWING COMMENTARY RE MEETING. MARGALIT (HAARETZ) CITES WASHINGTON SOURCES THAT EGYPTIANS HAVE NOT YET AGREED TO 3-5 YEAR AGREEMENT. SADAT AND FAHMY, HE CONTINUES, HAVE HINTED THAT

DURATION IS NEGOTIABLE, BUT FOR PRESENT ARE STILL SPEAKING OF 1-2 YEARS. BARNEA (DAVAR) WRITES THAT, CONTRARY TO WHAT SECRETARY TOLD CORRESPONDENTS ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENT TO SALZBURG, SADAT DID NOT PROMISE FORD TO PROVIDE 3-5 YEAR DURATION, BUT INSTEAD PROPOSED ONLY "IMPROVED VERSION" OF EGYPT'S MARCH PROPOSAL. ISRAELI OFFICIALS, LEARNING THIS FROM KISSINGER/DINITZ MEETING--BARNEA CONTINUES--DOUBT WHETHER EARLY INTERIM SETTLEMENT CAN BE REACHED ON THIS BASIS, AND FURTHER DOUBT THAT RABIN CAN MAKE AS FAR-REACHING PROPOSALS AS HE COULD HAVE IF SADAT HAD SHOWN READINESS FOR "REAL CONCESSIONS".

4. ANOTHER THEME OF ISRAELI POLITICIANS AND COMMENTATORS HERE BOTH PRIOR TO AND AFTER KISSINGER-DINITZ MEETING IS CONTINUED CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE LINKAGE BETWEEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT AND NEW ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA. HARIF (MAARIV) JUNE 6 WRITES THAT WHILE EGYPT HAS ACCEPTED THE "RULE" THAT AN INTERIM AGREEMENT SHOULD STAND ON ITS OWN, IT CAN BE ASSUMED THAT USG HAS ALREADY PROMISED EGYPT THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL BEGIN WITH SYRIA THREE MONTHS AFTER GOE/GOI AGREEMENT IS REACHED.

5. PRESUMABLY AGAINST BACKGROUND OF WHAT DINITZ TOLD JERUSALEM, LATEST PRESS ANALYSES (JUNE 6) OF RABIN'S PROBABLE OPENING POSITION IN DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT FORD NOW EMPHASIZE: A) RABIN WILL ASK PRESIDENT TO CLARIFY USG VIEWS ON LONGER-TERM ISSUES RE FINAL OVERALL SETTLEMENT (SYRIA, PLO AND JORDAN) B) RE INTERIM GOE/GOI AGREEMENT, GOI WILL DEMAND MINIMUM THREE YEAR DURATION; C) ISRAEL WILL INSIST ON HOLDING ONTO EASTERN END OF PASSES UNLESS EGYPT GIVES NON-BELLIGERENCY COMMITMENT. (HARIF, MAARIV, IS ONLY CORRESPONDENT TO CARRY LAST POINT-- PARA 2, TEL AVIV 3530 SHOULD BE CORRECTED ACCORDINGLY.) DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOTE THAT THIS IS FIRST TIME IN PAST FEW WEEKS THAT NON-BELLIGERENCY AS SUCH HAS RESURFACED IN PRESS AS GOI REQUIREMENT IN CONTEXT DISCUSSIONS OF NEW INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT.

6. AS WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED REPORT OF SALZBURG OR OF KISSINGER/DINITZ MEETING, WE CANNOT EVALUATE ACCURACY OF ISRAELI PRESS REPORTING FROM WASHINGTON AND JERUSALEM ON THESE SUBJECTS.
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WITH THIS CAVEAT, HOWEVER, IT APPEARS TO US--ON BASIS OF OUR CONTACTS HERE--THAT REPORTS OF "TOUGH" POSITIONS RABIN MAY BE TAKING TO WASHINGTON MIGHT BE ACCURATE, PARTICULARLY IF IT IS TRUE THAT EGYPT HAS NOT COME UP WITH NEW PROPOSALS TO WHICH THE ISRAELIS BELIEVE THEY COULD RESPOND WITH NEW "FLEXIBILITY".

7. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT, EVEN IF FOREGOING PRESS REPORTS ARE ACCURATE RE GOI "TOUGH" LINE, THIS COULD BE INTENDED ONLY AS OPENING POSITION ON GOI ASSUMPTION THAT THERE COULD OR WOULD BE FURTHER GIVE ON EGYPTIAN SIDE. DEPARTMENT WILL

HAVE TO BE JUDGE, BASED ON FULL INFO AVAIL IN WASHINGTON
WHETHER RABIN IS LIKELY TO BE WILLING OR (FROM HIS POINT OF
VIEW) ABLE TO ENGAGE IN SUBSTANTIVE SPECIFIC NEGOTIATIONS
RE GOE/GOI INTERIM AGREEMENT IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK; OR
IF, AS PRESS ALSO SPECULATES, HE WILL BE PREPARED ONLY
"TO LISTEN" AND DISCUSS MIDEAST IN GENERAL TERMS.

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